

Transportation Advisory Committee

December 13, 2017, 7:15 pm to 9:50 pm, Town Hall 2nd floor conf. room

Present: Seth Federspiel, Chuck Giroux, Mike Gordon, Pam Heidell, Brian Kmetz, Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Marjorie Moores, Howard Muise, Victor Rivas, Scott Smith, Laura Wiener

Missing members: Wayne Chouinard, Bill Copithorne, Corey Rateau

Non-Members Present: None

Administration. Minutes of 11/15/17 approved unanimously, with a proposed revision to the description of the discussion related to the Council of Aging. Correspondence sent/received includes a memo regarding the Bike Path at Water St., which is included as an agenda item.

Public Comments. No members of the public were in attendance.

Town Issues.

- Laura will be moving to work for the Town of Watertown as a Transportation Planner. Victor will also be stepping down from the TAC, but will continue to participate as needed.
- Laura noted that Arlington did not get a grant from the Commonwealth for the Arlington Center Broadway Plaza project.
- Laura will resend a link to the Ethics training required for TAC members.

Bike Path @ Water St. Scott will lead this working group to assess potential improvements to the bike path at Water St. Melissa will be on the working group as well. Corey and Wayne will be involved. Scott will reach out to ABAC to see if an ABAC member would be interested in being on the working group. The working group will get going with counts in the Spring.

Gibbs School Traffic Analysis. Jeff met with the school superintendent and principal the previous week. There are issues with the demand because the school is expecting many drop-offs. The school is looking into providing an additional bus and how to fund it. The group also discussed drop-off locations – the width of Foster St. would require the Town to prohibit parking to allow drop-offs. Tufts St. is wider so could serve as an alternative option. The school will discuss with the architects the potential to include an additional pull-out near the school, and potentially adding a driveway. There have also been discussions about an informal drop-off location along Mass Ave. The school is looking at transportation demand management to encourage students to use the MBTA and bike racks. The next meeting will be with the school and architect.

School Zones. Marjorie will formalize the school zone maps with recommendations for the Gibbs, Ottoson, and Brackett Schools. Corey will be on-site during installation for any required adjustments. The next step is to go to the Board of Selectmen to make the school zones official. The memo will include a school zone at St. Agnes, without specific locations. TAC approved a vote unanimously to ask the Selectmen for school zones at the Gibbs, Ottoson, Brackett, and St. Agnes schools.

Arlington Center Safe Travel Project. There is a new signal at Swan St. that has replaced the HAWK light, and will require coordination – this is now a regular signal with bike detection. EALS and ABAC sent a letter identifying additional improvements they feel are still needed. There are no plans in place to change the signal timing at the Massachusetts Ave. / Pleasant St. intersection but the Town will monitor the situation.

Speed Safety Zones. Jeff brought speed information for Herbert Rd. The 85th percentile speed is 25 mph eastbound and 23 mph westbound. The speed zone would bring this area to a 20 mph

limit. The counts and speeds were done when the park was closed, so may require additional data. Menotomy Rocks park has faster speeds. The group is looking more into how to implement the speed safety zones.

Lake Street Traffic Signal Design. There was a public hearing with comments from cyclists that use the intersection. Complete Streets funding is likely for the project. The design plan is moving towards 100% design.

Bike Share Program. Seth noted that MAPC has released a RFP for no-cost bike share options. Responses are due back on December 20, with selection in January. The dockless bike share is being piloted in Malden and Revere.

Mass Ave. BRT Study. Arlington won a grant for BRT design along Mass. Ave. and will work with the MBTA and Cambridge. Laura noted that there will be a one month trial period in the fall. The BRT route would operate in Arlington. Cambridge received funding for Mt. Auburn St. There could potentially be a shared bus-bike lane on Mass. Ave. Success will be measured by an improvement of the bus travel time along Mass. Ave.

Arlington Reservoir Master Planning. There have been discussions about paving the parking lot at the Arlington Reservoir, but the proposed designs would result in lost spaces. There is currently demand for approximately 55 vehicles in the lots but designs have 38 parking spaces because they do not utilize the space in the center of the lot. In addition, Howard will contact the designer to note the Town's plan for Lowell St.

School Issues/Pedestrian Flags. Topic did not have any additional comment.

Appleton St./Paul Revere Rd. Mike has requested that Wayne take a look at bump outs along Park Ave. Corey would need to do counts to look at a signal at Appleton St./Park Ave. Howard will work on the traffic distribution at Paul Revere/Park Ave. Wayne could take a look at striping Park Ave. for a left onto Paul Revere and see if there is enough room for it. Mike will reach back out to Corey to ask about a speed radar sign on Paul Revere Rd.

Safe Pedestrian Access at Bus Stops. Howard is pulling together recommendations. The recommendations at the intersection of Broadway and North Union St. have been implemented, and this stop now has pads, curb, and sidewalk, and planted a grass strip.

Adjourned at 8:40 PM.

- Meeting Materials:
 - Meeting Packet for November: Agenda 12/13/17; Minutes of 11/15/17; Individual Action List 12/13/17; Project List 12/13/17.
 - Memo to Howard Muise from Marie Krepelka, Board of Selectmen Administrator, regarding Bike Path at Water Street, November 30, 2017.
 - School Zones, Gibbs School, Updated 7/7/17.